

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7.

The Office Action required that Figures 1 and 2 be designated by a legend such as -- Prior Art --. With this amendment, Applicants include a proposed drawing correction with this legend added to these figures. Review and approval of the proposed drawing correction is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also suggested changes to the Abstract. These changes have been made to the Abstract.

Claims 1-7 were objected to because of informalities. The suggestions in the Office Action to minimize possible confusion between "first branch" and "first circuit branch" have been adopted in the claims.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Although Applicants respectfully disagrees with this rejection and believe that the claims are clear enough to satisfy the statute, Applicants have amended the claims for clarification only and not to narrow their scope.

In view of these amendments, Applicants believe that all of the points raised by the Office Action with respect to clarity have been dealt with.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sean et al. However, the Office Action goes on to state that claims 2-7 would be allowable in rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicants disagree with the rejection over Sean et al. and believe that the claims as written clearly distinguish over this reference, for purposes of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2. Claims 3-5, 7, and new claim 8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same

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reasons. Claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and is therefore believed to be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, claims 1, and 3-8 should now be in allowable condition.

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CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: S1022.80999US00
Date: December 23, 2004
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